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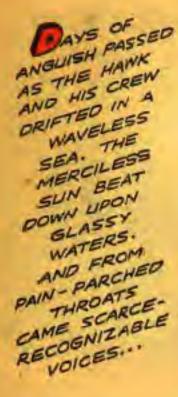






















## LORD of the SEA

## HORATIO NELSON

IF one had to name a single man to represent England as triumphant mistress of the seas there could be little hesitation in selecting Horatio Nelson. He began his career as a shy, sickly boy, twelve years old, aboard the battleship Raisonnable. At twenty-one he was a post captain. He lost an eye at the siege of Calvi, an arm in the expedition against Teneriffe. Though his headlong valor had received no special recognition, he had become known to his immediate superiors as one who "could not be spared, either as captain or admiral."

As a boy at school he had himself let down by sheets one night in order to raid a pear-orchard—and then gave all the fruit away, explaining that he only went because "all the other fellows were afraid."

The dark cloud of Napoleon's conquering ambition rose over Europe. Those were gloomy days for England when the news of each successive conquest on the Continent made it probable that her turn would come next.

October, 1805, saw Nelson in command of a fleet off Cape Trafalgar, near Cadiz, awaiting the combined forces of France and Spain under Admiral Villeneuve.

At daybreak of the 21st the enemy came in sight, thirty-three ships of the line and seven frigates, formed in close battle order.

Nelson's plan of attack had been carefully outlined to Admiral Collingwood and the other officers. As usual his main insistence was on "a close and decisive action."

That was the true Nelson touch.

The admiral turned and gave an order. A new signal snapped into place at the masthead:

"England expects every man to do his

duty."

Nelson was in full dress-his long, blue admiral's frock coat, with the glittering stars of four orders on his breast. It was



known that the enemy had four thousand troops on board, including many picked Tyrolese sharpshooters. Indeed, these riflemen could be seen clustered in the tops. The viscount was so conspicuous a mark, and his fame made the French so particularly anxious to remove him, that his officers were much disturbed. It had been hinted before that prudence demanded he should remove his coat or cover up his stars, but he had answered: "In honor I gained them, and in honor I will die with them."

Nelson steered for the largest thing in

sight, the Santissima Trinidad.

Scott, his secretary, fell dead A doubleheaded shot wiped out eight marines. A ball passed between Nelson and Hardy and a splinter tore off the latter's buckle. Each thought the other wounded. "Too warm work to last long," smiled Nelson. In ten minutes fifty men had been killed or disabled. The flag-ship's maintopmast, booms, and studding-sails had been shot away.

Still the Victory's guns were silent. Still her men stood to quarters, with a cool courage never surpassed. Still she held

straight for the enemy,

They reached the enemy's van. Passing down the line in an effort to break through, the word was given. The gun crews



Headed for the orchard.

changed suddenly from statues to frenzied avengers. The cannon spoke with one great voice—and spoke again; and those in front knew only too well what they said.

It became clear they must run aboard

one of the foe to break the line.

"Which one would you prefer, sir?" inquired Captain Hardy.

"Take your pick," said the admiral. "It

doesn't signify much."

"Port your helm!" called Hardy.

Round veered the grim battleship till

she headed for the Redoubtable.

The latter received her with a broadside, then hastily closed her lower-deck ports, lest she be boarded through them. Nor did she again fire a great gun during the conflict; but the riflemen in her tops were still in the fight. Just as her tiller-ropes were shot away, the Victory ran into her opponent. Harvey in the Temeraire swung aboard on the other side, and a Frenchman ranged alongside the Temeraire.

Here then were these four ships in "as compact a tier as if they had been moored together, their heads lying all the same way," thundering their heavy shot into

each other's vitals.

The Victory's gunners had to depress their pieces and lessen the charges lest they fire through the Redoubtable into their own Temeraire on the other side. The larboard guns had no such trouble, and they beat a devil's tattoo upon both the Santissma Trinidad and the Bucentaure,

Villeneuve's flag-ship.

On the starboard side a fireman with a bucket of water stood by each piece. When the lower-deck guns were run out the muzzles touched the Redoubtable's sides; and, to prevent fire, after each shot this bucket of water was dashed into the gaping hole!

Twice Nelson ordered his men to cease firing on this side, thinking the Redoubtable, which flew no colors, had surrendered, because her great guns were silent. An hour after the melee began, a rifle-ball from the Frenchman's mizzentop, only fifty feet from where he stood, struck him on the left shoulder.

He fell upon his face in a pool of blood. Hardy, who had shouted a warning too late, ran to the spot. Three men raised the admiral.

"They've done for me at last, Hardy," said he.

Nevertheless, as he was carried down the ladder, he gave orders to have new tiller-ropes rigged in place of those shot away; and to prevent being seen by the crew, he covered his face and stars.

But not even the agony he suffered could take his mind from the battle which raged above. Whenever a ship struck—the Redoubtable surrendered twenty minutes after Nelson was hit—the crew of the Victory burst into cheering, and at each of these huzzas his face lit up with pride and delight. He sent repeated messages to Captain Hardy.



Sighting of the enemy fleet.



The guns beat a devil's tattoo.

At last, after an endless hour's wait, the captain came. He pressed his admiral's hand in silence.

"How goes the day with us?"

"Very well," replied Hardy. "Ten ships have struck, but five of the van have tacked and seem to be bearing down on the Victory. I have called two or three of our fresh ships round."

"I hope none of our ships have struck?"

"There was no fear of that."

"I am a dead man, Hardy. I am going fast."

With a few more words, the captain hastened back on deck.

Fifty minutes later, he returned. The battle was on but it was a complete and magnificent victory; at least fourteen or fifteen of the enemy's ships were sunk.

"That's well, but I bargained for twen-

ty," said Nelson resolutely. .

He still gave orders, commanding the

But his span was lessening rapidly. A

little later he said:

"Now I am satisfied. Thank God, I have done my duty."

The last words were repeated several times. Then his brave spirit was released.

Trafalgar shattered the French naval power: the twenty captures Nelson had demanded were taken; others went down in a storm; only four escaped.

: But there was no joy in England, in spite of her celebration of the victory. For she felt the price paid had been all too great. And many a man vowed the island-empire were safer with Nelson and threatened by the enemies' utmost power, than without him even when the hostile fleets had been annihilated.

That, I fancy, is the highest tribute ever paid by a nation to one brave man.



Death of The Admiral.







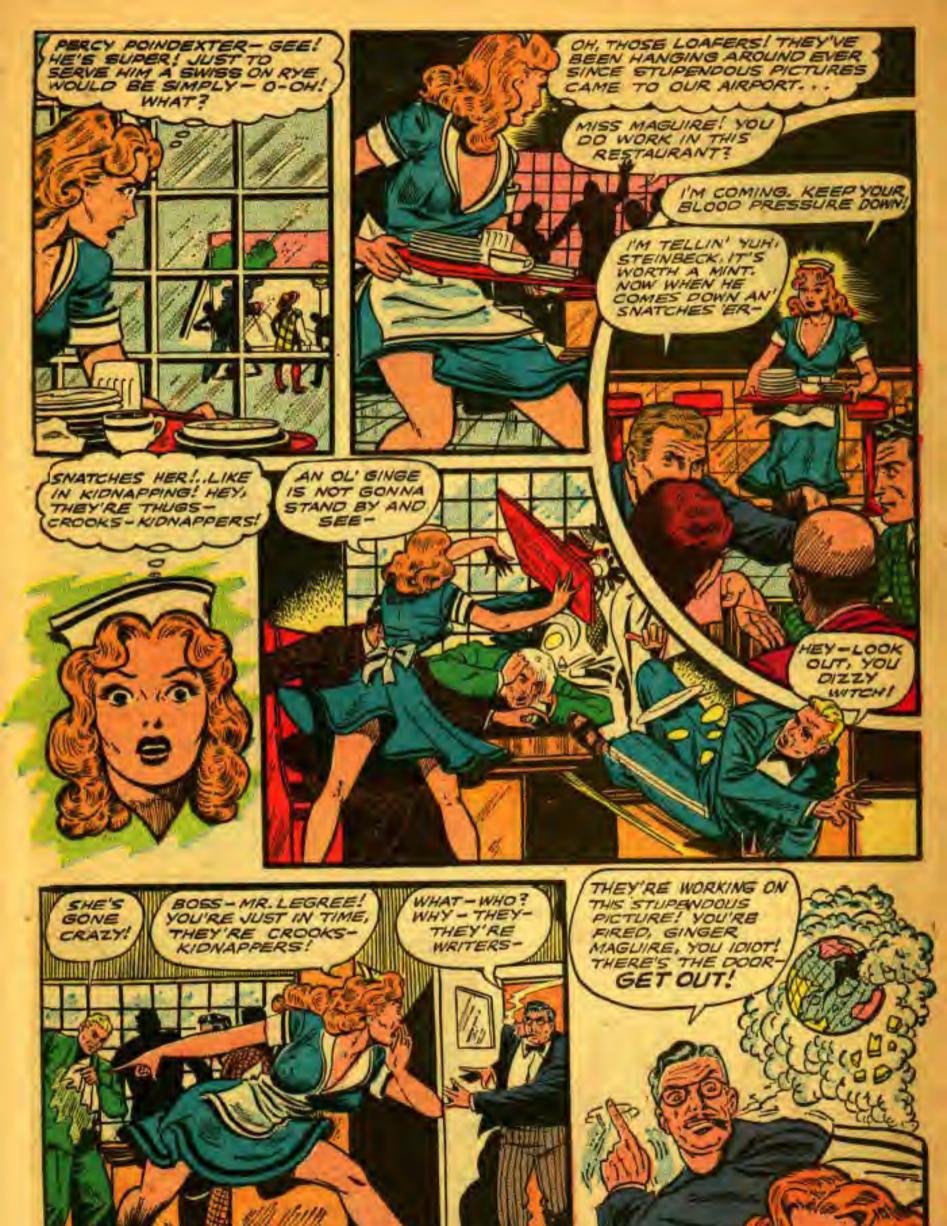














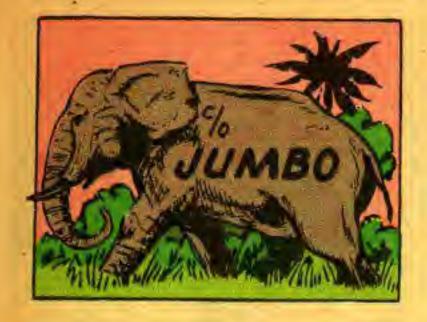












Plattsmouth, Nebraska

Dear Editor.

I have been reading some of the letters sent to you and really think you're a great sport to print some of

them that sourpusses write.

What are people to do in this day and age? They can't be serious and hateful all their lives. A person needs some relaxation from the toils of life; why not take it in male-believe if you enjoy it? Why do peo-ple who don't like comics buy them? They certainly are not forced to. Perhaps if some of these sobersides read to enjoy instead of criticize, they would not be that way.

I am the mother of two children and happy indeed that they can enjoy good clean comics such as yours. They should be bigger books and published more often. My children will always have their comics. I am twentynine and expect to read them myself until I am ninety-

iwo.

Yours truly, P.A.W.L.

P.S. Hurrah for the person who thinks they should make moving pictures of SHEENA. Why not try it?

Houston, Texas

Dear Editor.

You esked who we'd like to travel with if we could go along with any one of the characters on their ad-ventures. For me, it's SHEENA. But I certainly wouldn't want to be Bab. He's a jerk if there ever was one. I think I'd prefer to be Chim rather than Bob.

James Connolly

Bogalusa, La.

Dear Editors Sky Girl Is my girl!

Bill (The Poet) Sazon

Middleboro, Mass.

Dear Editor,

I like all your stories except ZX-5 and SKY GIRL. My money is spent this way: SHEENA-4c; THE HAWK-3c; STUART TAYLOR-2c; and THE GHOST GALLERY -Ic.

Konnoth Saccocia

San Francisco, Cal.

Sies:

rate them SHEENA, THE HAWK, GHOST GAL-LERY, SKY GIRL, ZX-5, and STUART TAYLOR. I would-n't leave any of them out though.

Horace Jones.

Dear Editor.

There is one question I would like to ask: Do you

print every letter sent to you?

I think SHEENA. THE HAWK, EX-5, and STUART TAYLOR are good. GHOST GALLERY is excellent. SKY GIRL is just plain silly. I'm not asking you to change it for me though, because I realize I'm not the only person who buys your magazine.

Carol Apke

Editor: No. Carol, we couldn't possibly print the thousands of letters we receive each month. We try to pick those which are most interesting or representative. We also try to let readers from all parts of the country have their say each month.

Bangor, Maine

If you ask me what I think of your book, it's SHEENA, SHEENA, SHEENA! She's the magazine. Maurice Isen

New York City

Dear Editor.

I bought your book again last month of still think it belongs in the garbage can.

Mac Taylor

Marion, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Your magazine is great, SKY GIRL is cute as a button. Please give her a boy friend. Too many people criticize THE HAWK. Don't they really appreciate a good story? THE HAWK is my favorite. Go on with the good work and don't change his attitude toward Velvet. I guess SHEENA is all right. I like that type of story but it seems no one woman could do as much as she does. I like your idea of supernatural stories. They're super. Jeanne Ingram.

Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Editor,

I think you have a wonderful comic magazine. Every feature is tops with me. SHEENA is my favorite. Keep up the good work.

Minte Delle McNeilan

Duluth, Minnesote

Dear Editor.

I think your book is swell. One of the best I've ever read. But I think you're unfair to SKY GIRL. She's pretty: I don't see why she can't get a boy friend. Leave every comic story in there.

Fay Welsh

Trenton, N. J.

I think you have a good book although there is room for improvement, Personelly, I think THE HAWK and GHOST GALLERY are best of all the stories. SHEENA is very good; she rates third with me. ZX-5 should drop dead. STUART TAYLOR should be time-machined back somewhere and never return. I would like to suggest that instead of the usual stories, just keep SHEENA. THE HAWK, GHOST GALLERY, and SKY GIRL but make them a few pages longer.

Jim Kelly

Editor: That's all that space will allow for this month. This is your page in your magazine. Let's have your views.





























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